

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 28, 2005. Claims 1 to 10 are in the application, of which Claim 1 is still the only independent claim. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0075366 (Smith), and Claims 5 and 6 have additionally been rejected under § 103(a) over Smith. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The invention concerns a liquid reservoir in which a negative pressure introducing portion introduces a negative pressure into the storage, and a liquid intake portion takes the liquid into the storage with the negative pressure introduced from the negative pressure introducing portion. A gas/liquid separating member transmits only a gas through the negative pressure introducing portion. A plurality of thin plates are disposed in the liquid storage portion, and a guiding portion is formed between the thin plates and the liquid supply portion. A capillary force of the guiding portion is stronger than a capillary force of the storing portion, insofar as a capillary force is generated by the thin plates.

In contrast, Smith merely discloses an ink cartridge having an ink chamber 36 for storing ink 38, an ink outlet 40, a vent opening 62 and capillary plates 50 which connect the ink chamber 36 to the vent opening 62. The interior pressure of the ink chamber 36 is reduced by the negative pressure. Thus, Smith differs fundamentally from

the invention, and in particular does not disclose or suggest even a single one of the features mentioned above.

In entering the rejection of the claims, the Office Action took the position that Smith's liquid reservoir has a plurality of thin bodies provided at gaps from each other, and cited to Smith's paragraphs [0020] through [0028] and to Figures 1 to 3. It is thought that the Office Action might have misinterpreted the figures of Smith, and in particular might have misinterpreted ink 38 of Smith as somehow comprising a plurality of thin bodies. Smith's drawings depict ink 38 as a liquid in accordance with PTO drawing guidelines found at MPEP § 608.02. In particular, the PTO recommends to depict a liquid as a series of horizontal dashed lines, as shown in the figure on page 600-99 of which an excerpt is reproduced below:



Excerpt from MPEP §
608.02, page 600-99

It is therefore clear that Smith's figures do not depict a plurality of thin bodies at 38, but rather depict a liquid ink at 38. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the ink tank of Smith differs fundamentally from the liquid reservoir claimed herein, and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

An Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this Amendment.
Consideration of the art cited therein is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neill", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants
Michael K. O'Neill
Registration No. 32,622

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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